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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

(DR. WM. STEPHENSON)

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

(JAMES KAILOFER)

For the Year 1938.

ASHINGTON
PORTLAND PRINTING COMPANY,
HINDMARCH (PRINTERS) LTD.
1939.

Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health :

DR. WM. STEPHENSON,

M.R.C.S. (Eng.) L.R.C.P. (Lond.)

Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor and Housing Supervisor :

JAMES KAILOFER, Esq.,

M.R.San. Inst., M.S.I.A., F.F.A.S.,

Certif. R.S.I. Meat and Foods.

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SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

The present area of the District as constituted by the Northumberland Review Order, 1935, is 1841 acres.

The population at the census of 1921 was 6,800; at the Census of 1931 it was 6,904.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population at mid 1938 is 8,915.

Since 1931, the district of North Seaton was added to the area (Northumberland Review Order, 1935) which accounts for the large increase in population in the last estimate.

The number of inhabited houses at 31st December 1938 was 2,405.

The Rateable value at 31st December, 1938 was £35,040.

The sum represented by 1d. Rate at 31st December, 1938 was £146.

Social Conditions.

The District is bounded on the north and west by agricultural land in the Ashington Urban area, on the east by the sea, and on the south by the River Wansbeck.

The district is mainly mining with a small proportion of Fishermen and Agricultural workers. There is also an Artificial Stone Works which employs approximately 100 men.

Unemployment.

At 31st December, 1938, there were 293 men unemployed in the district, which is an increase of 83 compared with 210 at 31st December, 1937.

Vital Statistics.

Births:—

Live Births.	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	136	67	69
Illegitimate	7	5	2

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population:—16.04

Still Births.	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	10	7	3
Illegitimate	0	0	0

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births:—65.36

Deaths:—

Total	Male	Female
98	59	39

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population:—10.99

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal sepsis	1	6.53
Other Puerperal causes	0	—
Total	1	6.53

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	41.95
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	44.11
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	11
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	0

The Register General supplies the following :—

CAUSES OF DEATHS 1937.

	Causes of Death.	M	F		Causes of Death.	M	F
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers	1	0	27	Other Digestive diseases	4	3
2	Measles	0	0	28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	1	3
3	Scarlet Fever ...	0	0	29	Puerperal Sepsis...	0	1
4	Whooping Cough ...	0	0	30	Other Puerperal causes ...	0	0
5	Diphtheria	1	0	31	Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, &c.	2	1
6	Influenza	0	0	32	Senility	0	0
7	Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0	33	Suicide	0	0
8	Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	0	0	34	Other Violence ...	5	2
9	Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	1	1	35	Other defined diseases ...	3	2
10	Other Tuberculous diseases	0	0	36	Causes ill-defined or unknown	0	0
11	Syphilis	1	1	37	Diarrhœa (2 years and over)	0	0
12	General Paralysis of the insane Tabes Dorsalis ...	0	0			59	39
13	Cancer, malignant disease	7	4				
14	Diabetes	0	2		Total	98	
15	Cerebal Hæmorrhage, &c.	11	2				
16	Heart Disease ...	12	9				
17	Aneurysm	0	0				
18	Other Circulatory diseases	3	3				
19	Bronchitis	3	1				
20	Pneumonia (all forms) ...	1	3				
21	Other respiratory diseases	1	0				
22	Peptic ulcer	1	0				
23	Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	0	0				
24	Appendicitis	1	1				
25	Cirrhosis of Liver ...	0	0				
26	Other diseases of Liver, &c.	0	0				

Deaths of Infants under 1 year	Legitimate ...		6
	Illegitimate ...		0
	Total ...	6	
Live Births	Legitimate ...		136
	Illegitimate ...		7
	Total ...	143	
Stillbirths	Legitimate ...		10
	Illegitimate ...		0
	Total ...	10	

Birth Rates, Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death Rates and Case Rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1938.

(England and Wales, London, 126 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns). Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales.	126 County Boro's and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	London Administrative County.
	Rates per 1000 Population.			
Births—				
Live	15·1	15·0	15·4	13·4
Still	0·60	0·65	0·60	0·48
Deaths—				
All Causes	11·6	11·7	11·0	11·4
Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Smallpox	0·00	—	0·00	—
Measles	0·04	0·05	0·03	0·06
Scarlet Fever	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·01
Whooping Cough... ...	0·03	0·03	0·02	0·03
Diphtheria	0·07	0·07	0·06	0·05
Influenza	0·11	0·10	0·11	0·06
Notifications—				
Smallpox	0·00	0·00	0·00	—
Scarlet Fever	2·41	2·60	2·58	2·05
Diptheria	1·58	1·85	1·53	1·90
Enteric Fever	0·03	0·03	0·04	0·05
Erysipelas	0·40	0·46	0·39	0·46
Pneumonia	1·10	1·28	0·98	0·98
	Rates per 1000 Live Births.			
Deaths under 1 year of age ..	53	57	51	57
Deaths from Diarrhœa & Enteritis under 2 years of age ...	5·5	7·8	3·6	13·1
Maternal Mortality—				
Puerperal Sepsis	0·89	Not available		
Others...	2·19			
Total	3·08			
	Rates per 1000 Total Births (i.e. Live and Still).			
Maternal Mortality—				
Puerperal Sepsis	0·86	Not available		
Others...	2·11			
Total	2·97			
Notifications—				
Puerperal Fever	14·42	18·08	12·51	3·53
Puerperal Pyrexia ...				15·46

Infant Mortality.

This has been the most dramatic and successful fight of recent years. There is no doubt that the big reduction in Infant Mortality has been largely due to the establishment of the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics where the principles of good feeding and child-care are so well taught.

Maternal Mortality.

This is divided roughly into two sections. First, greatly increased care against sepsis at the actual confinement; and secondly, the establishment of Ante-Natal Clinics where faults and trouble are spotted and corrected.

"Ante-Natal" care is generally accepted as being necessary if we wish to lower maternal and infantile death rates, to make maternity safer, and to improve the health of the population. By Ante-Natal examination it is possible to anticipate most of the dangers of midwifery and by appropriate treatment to eliminate practically all the minor interferences. It is therefore very important that the practitioner who attends the confinement should have conducted the Ante-Natal examination.

These are the principles followed in our Ante-Natal Clinic here under the direction of the County Medical Officer.

Mortuary.

The Public Mortuary is of great service to the local practitioners when ordered to carry out Post Mortems by H.M. Coroner. Unfortunately we get some bad cases here, for instance post mortems on bodies washed up by the sea, and those on Colliery accident cases.

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Laboratory Facilities.

This county service is greatly appreciated by the local doctors. During last year about 300 Clinical Specimens were sent up to the County Laboratory for examination. These included Throat Swabs, Sputum samples, and samples of Blood and Faeces.

Ambulance Facilities.

The Council has no Ambulance. The Ambulance from the Hospital is used when necessary in the case of Infectious Diseases. In the case of non-Infectious Diseases the Miners' Welfare Ambulance is available on payment of a fee.

This arrangement is found to be very satisfactory.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) General—There are two Nursing Associations in the District, the Newbiggin, Woodhorn and North Seaton Nursing Association and the Newbiggin Colliery Nursing Association.
Each supported by voluntary contributions and employs one Nurse for general, accident and maternity cases.

(b) No nursing of Infectious cases is undertaken.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS. (under Northumberland County Council)

(1) Orthopaedic Clinic.

This is still conducted, as yet, at Ashington under the Orthopaedic County Surgeon and the Orthopaedic Nurses.

(2) The Women's Advisory Clinic.

This is a new name given to the Birth Control Clinic which runs regularly at Ashington under Dr. Sinton, the lady doctor, who gives advice on conception-control in carefully selected cases.

(3) Midwifery Service.

Two midwives, each attached to the local nursing associations, but are controlled by the Head County Midwife.

(4) Ante-Natal Clinic.

This is conducted every Tuesday afternoon (quite separately from the M. & C. W. Monday Clinic) by Dr. James Angus and myself alternatively, in the new Building recently built behind Jubilee Terrace, an excellent up to date clinic.

(5) Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic.

This is more popular than ever, there being an average weekly attendance of 100, and is under the care (alternative weeks) of the above-mentioned medical officers, assisted by Nurse McDermott, who is a great favourite with the mothers. Advice is given here on all the children's troubles, infants' food dispensed, certain drugs sold and all children carefully weighed each week.

(6) Dental Clinic.

A Clinic for the care of teeth of children and of expectant mothers is shortly to be opened in the same building as the above.

(7) Tonsil and Adenoid Scheme.

This continues to run successfully the children being operated on at Rye Hill Hospital, kept in at least one night and brought back by our Clinic Nurse.

(8) Holiday Home at Whalton.

This is a home for convalescent mothers after childbirth.

HOSPITALS PUBLIC AND VOLUNTARY.

The Council has no Hospital. Surgical cases are sent to the Hospitals at Newcastle-upon-Tyne whilst the County Hospital at Preston takes cases of Tuberculosis, Opthalmia &c.

Cases of Infectious diseases which are too serious to be nursed at home, or where isolation at home is impossible, are sent mainly to the Isolation Hospitals of the Ashington Urban District Council and Newcastle Corporation.

MIDWIFERY AND MATERNITY SERVICES.

The Colliery and District Nurses act as midwives under the County Council.
No midwife is employed by the Council.
There is one independant midwife.

SECTION B. (2).

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

PRIVATE WORK IN STREETS ACT, 1892.

By a resolution of the Urban District Council dated the 6th. day of September, 1929, the Private Street Works Act, 1892, came into operation within the district on the 15th. day of October, 1929.

PUBLIC HEALTHS ACTS AMENDMENT ACT, 1890.

By a resolution of the Urban District Council dated the 6th. day of October, 1927, Part III. of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, came into operattion within the district on the 16th. day of November, 1927.

By the Public Health Act, 1936, sections 16 to 27 (both inclusive) 32, 33, 36, 47 and part of 50 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, were repealed; such sections are reproduced in sections 27, 20, 87, 88, 52, 46, 61, 49, 54, 72, 82, 78, 242, 246, 59, and 259 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

PUBLIC HEALTHS ACTS AMENDMENT ACT, 1907.

By Order of the Local Government Board dated the 19th. day of August, 1909, the following parts and sections of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, came into force within the district as and from the 11th. day of October, 1909.

Part II. which relates to Streets and Buildings.

By the Public Health Act, 1936, sections 15 (part), 16 (part), 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 and part of 33 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, were repealed; such sections are reproduced in sections 66, 64, 90, 61, 56, 57, 53 and 71 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Sections 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 49, 50 and 51 comprised in Part III.which is composed of sanitary provisions.

By the Public Health Act, 1936, sections 34 to 38 (both inclusive), 43 to 47 (both inclusive) and 49 to 51 (both inclusive) of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, were repealed; such sections are reproduced in sections 39, 48, 141, 40, 34, 88, 89, 87, 37, 197, 107 and 108 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Sections 52 to 66 (both inclusive) and 68 comprised in Part IV, which relates to Infectious Diseases.

By the Public Health Act, 1936, sections 52, 55 to 66 (both inclusive) and section 68 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, were repealed; such sections are reproduced in sections 149, 152, 84, 150, 151, 155, 184, 168, 148, 159, 160, 169, 167, 165, of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Part V. relating to Common Lodging-houses.

By the Public Health Act, 1936, sections 69 to 75 (both inclusive) of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, were repealed; such sections are reproduced in sections 238, 241, 237, 247, and 246 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Part VI. relating to Recreation Grounds.

Not affected by the Public Health Act, 1936.

Part X. relating to Bathing places, provision of Life-saving appliances and power to licence Pleasure Boats, and extending and amending Sections 175 and 176 of the Public Health Act, 1875, as to the purchase of lands for public purposes and the appropriation and use thereof.

By the Public Health Act, 1936, sections 92 and 93 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, were repealed; such sections are reproduced in sections 231, 232 and 234 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

By an Order of the Home Secretary dated 8th. February, 1910, the following Sections were declared to be in force within the district:—

Sections 81 and 82.

By the Public Health Act, 1936, section 82 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, was repealed so far as regards matters with respect to which bathing byelaws could be made up under Part VIII. of the Public Health Act, 1936.

By an Order of the Home Secretary, dated the 16th. June, 1930, the following Section was declared to be in force within the district:—

Section 83.

Not affected by the Public Health Act, 1936.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

During the year 15 samples of water were taken from various parts in the district and all proved satisfactory upon examination.

In spite of the number of extra houses built, each with two sets of taps, the new Water Tower enables an excellent supply of water to be kept up. Many of our citizens who have hitherto had a "tap in the yard" and lived under the bad old conditions express great appreciation of the bath and the "hot and cold" provided in our Council houses.

The capacity of the Pit Head Baths has been practically doubled recently, so that the picture of a miner bathing in a tin bath in front of the kitchen fire will soon be a thing of the past, and not before time. I like to see my mining friends coming home clean with collar and tie (and even an attache case) like any other citizen; and then look at the difference at home as compared with the old days.

Drainage and Sewerage.

A Report and Plans have been prepared for the re-sewering of North Seaton Colliery and it is expected this work will be commenced next year.

Rivers and Streams.

The nuisance caused through the Water Closets at the Woodhorn Colliery Pit Head Baths discharging into the burn running through this area, is now abated, a sewer having been provided by the Ashington Urban District Council.

Closet Accommodation.

Number of Privies (Newbiggin 32) (North Seaton 126)	... ...	158
Number of Water Closets (inside 531) (outside 1781)	... ...	2312
Number of Pail Closets (on Allotments)	... ...	11
Number of Ashpits (Newbiggin 30) (North Seaton 75)	... ...	105

Another much-belated reform carried out in 1938 was the abolition of the disgusting earth-closet, an anachronism that used to make one's heart sick. A total of 287 privies were converted to Water Closets. The new and enhanced water supply made this much-needed improvement possible. The few odd closets that are still left will be treated in due course as part of the next slum-clearance scheme.

A Closet Conversion Scheme at North Seaton Colliery will be carried out as soon as the new sewers previously mentioned are provided.

Public Cleansing.

The Scavenging at Newbiggin Colliery and North Seaton Colliery has been somewhat unsatisfactory, owing to the large quantity of stones and coal duff giving extra work to the Contractors.

Shops and Offices.

Under the Shops Act of 1934, the duty of inspecting shops &c., in this area lies with the Northumberland County Council as our population is less than 20,000.

Sanitary Inspector's Report. Year ending December 31st, 1938.

(Sanitary Officers' Order 1926 Art. 19 (15).

District—Newbiggin-by-the-Sea. Population—8915. Inspector—James Kailofer.	Number of Inspections during year.	Number of Defects or Contraventions of Bye-laws.	Number outstanding from previous year.	Total	Number remedied after letter or interview.	Number of INFORMAL Notices served.	Defects remedied thereafter.	Number of STATUTORY Notices served.	Defects remedied thereafter.	In progress or being dealt with	Legal Proceedings
HOUSING.											
Structural defects (Summary of Sheet II)			24	24							
Defective Food-store...	308	6	40	46	22	11	9	—	—	15	Nil.
Dampness ...		26	23	49	7	16	10			32	
Overcrowding ...		22	75	97	48	—	—			49	
Nuisances		4	8	12	6	4	2			4	
WATER SUPPLY.											
Insufficient North Seaton Coll. Unsatisfactory and Village	88	12	61	73	12	8	8	—	—	53	Nil.
DRAINAGE.											
Insufficient ... Defective	12	10	19	29	18	2	2	—	—	9	
SANITARY CONVENIENCES.											
Insufficient ... ... Defective	40	33	300	333	23	4	4	287	287	19	
Shops, Food-stores, &c. ...	26										
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	55										
Slaughter Houses	26										
Tents, Vans, &c.	6	—									
Offensive Trades	12										
Workshops and Workplaces ...	18										
Keeping of Animals	—										
Insanitary Ashpits & Receptacles	22	18		18	8						
Ashpits improperly used ...	8	6		6	6						
Offensive accumulations ...	14	14		14	14						
Smoke Nuisances	0										
Petrol Stores	32										
Total ...	667	151	550	701	164	45	35	287	287	181	—

SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED.

	District : NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA Inspector : JAMES KAILOFER. Year 1938.	After letter or interview	After Informal Notice	After Statutory Notice	Total
Sanitary Conveniences	Privies abolished	0	0	287	287
	,, repaired	0	0	0	0
	Ashpits abolished	0	0	242	242
	,, roofed or repaired ...	0	0	0	0
	Pail Closets abolished... ...	0	0	0	0
	Water Closets provided ...	0	0	287	287
	,, ,, repaired ...	42	0	0	42
	Sanitary Bins provided ...	0	0	287	287
	,, ,, renewed... ...	61	0	0	61
Drainage	New Drains constructed ...	128	0	287	415
	Drains repaired or re-constructed...	28	0	0	28
	Additional Gullies provided ...	128	0	0	128
	Old Gullies replaced	7	0	0	7
	Scullery Sinks provided ...	134	0	0	134
	,, Waste-pipes repaired ,, ,, trapped	24	0	0	24
	Yards repaired or re-constructed ...	14	0	0	14
Water S'pply	Sources closed or discontinued ...	0	No. houses		0
	New Service provided... ...	139	affected		139

RIVERS POLLUTION.

Cases detected ...	Nil.	Particulars ...	Nil.
Remedied	Nil.	do. ...	Nil.
S.D. Works provided	Nil.	do. ...	Nil.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for the Year 1938.
FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA.

On the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, and the Factories Act, 1937, (which superseded the Act of 1901 on 1st July, 1938).

1—INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power	6	0	0
Factories without mechanical power	26	0	0
Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises	0	0	0
Total	32	0	0

2—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars	Number of Defects.			No of defects in respect of which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness ... . Overcrowding ... ... Unreasonable temperature .. .. Inadequate ventilation ... ... Ineffective drainage of floors ... ... Sanitary Conveniences { Insufficient ... .. Unsuitable or defective ... not separate for sexes ... Other Offences ... ... (Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937).	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Total	—	—	—	—

OUTWORK IN WHOLESALE PREMISES.

(Section 108 of Act of 1901 ; Section III of Act of 1937).

Nature of Work.	Instances.	Notices Served	Prosecutions.
Wearing Apparel :			
Making, &c.			
Cleaning and Washing			
Household Linen			
Lace, Lace Curtains and Nets ...			
Curtains and Furniture Hangings ..			
Furniture and Upholstery			
Electro-Plate			
File Making			
Brass and Brass Articles			
Fur Pulling			
Cables and Chains			
Anchors and Grapnels			
Cart Gear			
Locks, Latches and Keys	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Umbrellas, &c.			
Artificial Flowers			
Nets, other than Wire Nets			
Tents			
Sacks			
Racquet and Tennis Balls			
Paper, &c., Boxes, Paper Bags ..			
Brush Making			
Pea Picking			
Feather Sorting			
Carding, &c., of Buttons, &c. ..			
Stuffed Toys			
Basket Making			
Chocolates and Sweetmeats			
Cosaques, Christmas Crackers, Christmas Stockings, &c. ...			
Textile Weaving			
Lampshades			
Total	——	——	——

Smoke Abatement.

I note that several citizens are still unsporting enough to fire their chimneys (or allow them to catch fire) and cause great annoyance through thick smoke and smuts. This, of course, is a thoroughly anti-social habit and only needs mentioning to be condemned.

On the coal-fields, on account of citizens receiving part of their emoluments as coal, I fear that we will never see our houses completely fitted with gas and electric fireplaces. In many parts of our large cities an open coal-fire is never seen, all grates being fitted with smokeless fuel, anthracite or gas, or with electric stoves. This is the only way to obtain cloudless skies above our big towns and to abolish fog from our cities, allowing the sunshine through to feed the bodies of our children.

Our problem here is more pressing. Will our new conical pit-heap gradually become another menace to our health and a bright beacon to guide enemy airmen? Or will it solve the nuisance caused by the old flat pit-heap and behave itself well?

The whole business of pit-heaps is of course, shortly to be corrected by Act of Parliament.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no Swimming Baths or Pools in this area.

Private Street Works Act, 1892.

The following streets were paved during the year:—

Sandridge—front and back streets.
Haven View—entrance road and back street.
Clyde Crescent—entrance road and back street.

Plans, &c., are in course of preparation for the paving and draining of streets at Lynwood Avenue, Brentwood Avenue, and Woodhorn Crescent. This work will be carried out during 1939.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

(1) Number of Council houses found to be infested during the year was 3. All were disinfested.

(2) Number of private houses found to be infested during the year was 6. All were disinfested.

(3) The method employed for disinfesting houses is by means of "Pyagra" Insectide used with a pressure spray.

No methods are employed to ensure that belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses.

All disinfestations are carried out by the Sanitary Inspector's department.

SCHOOLS.

The general sanitary condition and water supply of all the schools remains satisfactory.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Much wilful damage has been done to the Public Conveniences in the area, the slot machines are often interfered with and put out of order. The public should assist us in protecting their own property.

BAKEHOUSES.

The three Bakehouses in the area are periodically inspected.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR 1938.

	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority	84	20	104
(b) By other Bodies or Persons ...	0	24	24
			128

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	308
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	308
2. (a) Number of Dwelling-houses (included under subhead 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	10
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	16
3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2
4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	8

REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or their Officers 104

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 0

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—

(a) By owners ... ... —

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ... —

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ... —

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—

(a) By owners ... ... —

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ... —

(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ... —

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ... —

(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 1

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ... —

HOUSING ACT, 1936—OVERCROWDING.

(A) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ...				158
(2) Number of families dwelling therein				160
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein:				
	Adults ...	735	...	965
	Children ...	230	...	
(B) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year				6
(C) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ...				48
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases:				
	Adults ...	177	...	
	Children ...	77	...	254
(D) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding				—
(E) Number of Licences granted for permitted number of a dwelling-house to be exceeded				1

Since I wrote my 1937 Report, the Council's scheme of rehousing the people has gone on apace and is now nearing completion. The whole of the land purchased at Woodhorn Demesne Estate has been utilised and the new sets of houses intended for fishermen and others have been built on land between Sandridge and the Church Point.

I notice a reluctance on the part of some citizens to tackle their gardens properly. This is sometimes an injustice to a man's neighbour who has a good garden and hates to find his work spoiled by weeds seeded from the plot of the neglected garden next door. In addition to this we know that it is now the duty of every man to put in as many potatoes as he can against a national emergency.

SLUM CLEARANCE AND OVERCROWDING.

We have done a good deal of work on overcrowding during the year, decanting dwellers from overcrowded houses into newly-built council houses.

There are a good many dwellings still to be condemned.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk.

No. of Registered Cowkeepers at 31/12/38	6
No. of Registered Purveyors of Milk at 31/12/38	15
No. of Cows at 31/12/38	125

During the year, samples of milk were taken regularly and sent to the County Council Laboratory at Newburn for testing. The results were as follows:—

Test for presence of Tuberculosis—34 samples tested—3 Positive, 31 Negative.

Methylene Blue Test—41 samples tested—17 satisfied Test.

Coliform Test—41 samples tested—25 satisfied Test.

Referring to the presence of Tuberculosis in Milk, it would be a pity if the excellent scheme of giving School children daily milk were somewhat vitiated by the presence of a single Tuberculous cow in the herds supplying this indispensable food.

The herds in our immediate district are on the whole very healthy, the byres well kept and the feeding of the cattle satisfactory. The County Council Officers keep a sharp eye on the milk throughout the district.

The milk supply to children under 2 years of age is practically above suspicion, as the milk given to very young children is dispensed dry and therefore germ-free at the Child Welfare Clinic every week.

Children's troubles caused by doubtful milk commence after they have finished having dried milk as a food, whether they have obtained the latter at the public clinic or the chemists.

Meat and other Foods.

The Slaughter houses in the district are visited and inspected. There are no public slaughter houses in this district nor is there any meat-marking scheme in force.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle exclu. Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number Killed					
Number Inspected					
All Diseases except Tuberculosis—					
Whole carcase condemned... ...					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Percentage of the No. affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...					
Tuberculosis only—					
Whole carcase condemned... ...					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...					
Percentage of No. inspected affected with Tuberculosis					

UNSOUND FOOD.

Description.	Surrendered.	Seized.	Legal Proceedings and Result.
1. Beef (home-killed) ... stones			
2. Beef (imported) ... ,,			
3. Mutton (home-killed) ,,			
4. Mutton (imported) .. ,,			
5 Pork ... .. ,,			
6. Game ... ... Lbs.			
7. Poultry ... ,,	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
8. Fish ... ... ,,			
9. Fruit ... Lbs. or tins.			
10. Canned Goods ... Cases.			
11. Bacon ... ... Lbs.			
12. Cheese ... ... ,,			
13. Butter ... ... ,,			
14. Lard ... ... ,,			

Number of Registered Slaughter-houses at 31/12/38 ... 4

Number of Licensed Slaughter-houses at 31/12/38 ... 0

Total ... 4

ADULTERATION, &c.

This work is undertaken by the Northumberland County Council.

CHEMICAL & BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

This work is undertaken by the Northumberland County Council.

NUTRITION.

The importance of this subject is constantly brought before the mothers at the Child Welfare Clinic.

SHELL-FISH.

There are no beds for shell-fish for sale in the District.

The local fishermen buy shell-fish (mussels) for baiting their lines, these are placed on the rocks near the Church Point and gathered as required.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

In commenting upon the fight against Infectious Diseases the first thing that strikes one is the lack of Hospital accommodation in our area.

The cases of Infectious Disease that cannot be isolated efficiently at home are still sent to Ashington Isolation Hospital or occasionally to Walker Gate Hospital near Newcastle-on-Tyne.

You are aware, however, that negotiations are in progress for a local Infectious Diseases Hospital for the Joint Area.

SCARLET FEVER.

I am glad to say that the rise in the Scarlet Fever Wave shown in the Graph in my last year's report has not been maintained. The number of cases fell from 29 in 1937 to 22 in 1938 and the character of the Fever was generally very mild; most patients being isolated at home. The rooms in which they were nursed were fumigated in every case at the end of the illness by the staff in the Sanitary Inspector's department. There is no sign as yet of a readiness on the part of the public to be inoculated against Scarlet Fever.

DIPHTHERIA.

In my Report for 1937, I gave details of the First Campaign against Diphtheria during which 800 children between the ages of 2 and 16 were immunised by the "one-shot" method. This kept the disease down in 1936 and 1937, but in 1938, the number of cases began to rise again until in November, 1938, there were 9 cases.

In view of this rise, due to (1) the natural return of the scourge after an interval (2) the growing-up of another batch of children too young to be immunised in the 1936 Campaign, and (3) the possible wearing-out of the immunity given two years before to a large number of children, I advised the Council to attempt a more thorough immunisation of the children between the ages of 2 and 12, by the "Two-Shot" Method.

Accordingly we started a campaign in November, 1938, and invited all the doctors to take part. The latter responded well, posters were put out, anti-toxin distributed, and as a result a further 774 inoculations were given. These represent about 400 children as certain ones did not come back for their second inoculation.

In this Campaign the children received their first inoculation one day and the second one three weeks afterwards. Most of the children came back for their second shot although it was feared at first that they would not.

It is hoped that the 1938 Campaign will keep down the incidence of the disease in 1939.

PNEUMONIA.

I am glad to report a drop in the number of cases of Pneumonia. The figures for the last few years are as follows:—

1933	—	26	cases.
1934	—	33	,,
1935	—	51	,,
1936	—	57	,,
1937	—	68	,,
1938	—	46	,,

It is to be hoped that 1937 was the peak year for notifiable Pneumonia and that we are now on the descending scale.

The type of the disease was again in 1938 very mild on the whole. There were very few deaths except in old people. There were few Empyemas and few Tuberculosis cases.

INFLUENZA.

This hardy annual visited the district as usual, causing great trouble and loss of working days. We do not appear to be any nearer the day when a general vaccination against "Flu" will be within the ambit of practical public health measures.

On the other hand, the tonsilitis which often accompanies the "Flu" is taken much more seriously nowadays by medical men. Every doubtful throat is swabbed and a report upon it obtained from the County Laboratory. If the throat looks in the slightest degree diphtheritic the usual practice is to inject 2,400 units of Anti-Diphtheritic serum at once and be on the safe side.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths
Smallpox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	22	5	0
Diphtheria	48	21	1
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ...	1	1	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	2	1
Pneumonia	47	4	4
Erysipelas	9	0	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	0

TABLE SHOWING ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES UNDER AGE GROUPS.

Disease.	Under 1 yr.	1 year	2 year	3 year	4 year	5 year	10 year	15 year	20 year	35 year	45 year	65 & over	Total
Smallpox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0	2	1	1	10	5	1	2	0	0	0	22
Diphtheria	0	0	0	2	3	14	21	4	4	0	0	0	48
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Pneumonia	6	5	2	1	5	3	1	3	8	2	8	3	47
Erysipelas	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	3	2	0	9
Ophthalmia	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

Cancer.

The most hopeful sphere of cancer treatment during the last year has been again that which includes cancers of the skin, e.g. Rodent Ulcers. These are practically all cured if Radium is applied early. We see none of the horrible Rodents eating the face away that we used to meet in the old days. People have been educated to go to their doctor early with these skin growths. The same applies to "lumps in the breast". Women now as a rule apply for treament at once when they feel a lump. The chance of cure is then very good indeed under modern methods. Cancers of the uterus do not appear to be always so soon spotted and treated. When a woman complains of haemorrhage, pain or discharge she is automatically referred to the Royal Infirmary for Radium treatment. This, in many cases, arrests the growth and gives her many added years of life. It cannot be too strongly impressed on women to report to their doctor at once any doubtful irregularity. Cancers of the stomach and bowel are not so amenable to cure in many cases, but during the last year several have submitted to surgical treatment. A few years extra life is often possible when treatment is initiated early.

Cancers of the tongue are now anything but hopeless. If Radium is given early, the outlook is very hopeful and perfect cure effected.

Prevention of Blindness.

Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum are reported to the County Medical Officer of Health and removed, if necessary, to Preston Hospital for treatment.

Tuberculosis.

I regret to report another rise in the figures for Tuberculosis, which in the last five years are as follows:—

1934	—	32	new	cases.
1935	—	26	,,	,,
1936	—	24	,,	,,
1937	—	19	,,	,,
1938	—	31	,,	,,

Although the figures for 1938 are up and incline at first to make one despair at the result of the endless struggle in our district against Tuberculosis—a fight reinforced by the building during my time of about 500 Council houses,—we ought to pause and consider two things.

First, there is a greater keenness these days on the part of doctors in spotting and reporting the lesser Tubercular lesions, like those attacking neck glands and abdominal glands, rather than lungs. Many gland cases now are spotted quickly, tested and cured, so that several cases reported at the beginning of the year are cured by the end of that year and are ultimately crossed off the Tuberculosis list.

Secondly, I would draw your attention once more to the consumption of raw (i.e. unboiled, unsterilised, or un-pasteurised) milk in our district. I am convinced that we will never eradicate Tubercular Adenitis until all milk fed to children (including of course the School milk) is suitably sterilised.

NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS AND MORTALITY DURING 1938.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths Notified Cases.			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp.		Respiratory		Non-Resp.	
Years.	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1—	0	1	2	1	0	1	0	0
5—	0	1	10	4	0	0	0	0
15—	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
25—	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
35—	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
45—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55--	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 upwds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	6	3	17	5	1	1	0	0

SECTION G.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.

VOLUNTEERS.

There has been great activity in the recruiting and training of Volunteers for the various Services throughout the year.

The position at 31st. December, 1938, is as follows:—

	Number required for War Establishment.	Number at present enrolled.	Deficiency.
Report Centre ...	28	4	24
Decontamination	11	10	1
Rescue and Demolition ...	21	13	8
Wardens	137	60	77
First-Aid Parties	45	12	43
Car and Ambulance Service ...	41	3	38
First-Aid Posts	47	45	2
TOTALS	330	147	193

In addition to the above there are a number of enrolments for other services:—

Messengers	28	enrolments.
Despatch Riders	4	,,
Fire Service	26	,,
Miscellaneous	1	,,
Repair Service	5	,,
Total	64	,,

The total number of Volunteers therefore, enrolled at 31/12/38, is 211, of whom 75% are trained.

WARDENS.

For this service, A Chief Warden, Deputy Chief Warden, four Head Wardens and 18 Senior Wardens have been appointed.

The district has been divided into four Areas (1 head warden for each area) and each area, in turn, has been divided into sectors (one senior warden for each sector). Each sector is then sub-divided into divisions and a warden will be appointed to each division. A division comprises an average of 25 houses or approximately 100 persons.

The Chief and Deputy Chief Wardens have each been provided with lists showing the Areas, Sectors and Divisions.

Each Senior Warden has been given lists showing all the streets in his particular Sector.

Lists are now being prepared for each Warden giving details of each house in his particular Division. Each Warden will be required to complete these lists and show the number of persons in each house with the sizes of Gas Masks they require.

RESPIRATORS.

As soon as the lists are completed for the wardens we will then be in a position to distribute respirators to the public.

FIRST AIR SERVICES.

The First-Aid Post for Newbiggin is the St. John's Ambulance Headquarters, and the First-Aid Point at the Ambulance Headquarters at North Seaton Colliery.

A Base Hospital is situated at North Seaton Hall, and Casualty Clearing Hospitals are fixed as follows:—

One at St. John's Ambulance Hut, Newbiggin.

One at Domestic Science Rooms in Modern Schools, Newbiggin.

One at First-Aid Station at North Seaton Colliery.

One at Welfare Institute at North Seaton Colliery.

Three ambulances have been earmarked for First-Aid services and also one lorry as emergency ambulance.

A large class in First Aid was formed at the end of the year for both men and women. The training was carried out under the St. John Ambulance Association Syllabus. The class was so big that it was necessary to hire the Co-operative Hall.

Decontamination.

Centres for decontamination of person have been established at the Pit Head Baths at Newbiggin and the Pit Head Baths at North Seaton Colliery.

Vehicles will also be decontaminated at the Pit Head Baths at Newbiggin.

Auxiliary Fire Service.

For this service we have 6 men fully trained, 8 undergoing training, and 6 more awaiting training, which will complete the number of Auxiliary firemen needed for peace time strength.

We are, however, still in need of a few more volunteers in the fire service to act as pickets, patrols, drivers, fitters, and electricians.

There are two Auxiliary Fire Stations for the Area, one at Newbiggin and one at North Seaton Colliery. A fire post is to be established at North Seaton Hall.

Various equipment has been allocated to us by the Home Office but up to the present we have only received one Light Trailer Pump, with hosepipes, &c.

Report Centre.

Preliminary steps are being taken witha view to forming a Report Centre Staff, the Headquarters of which will be the Council Chambers. A sub-control centre will be at the Colliery Offices at North Seaton Colliery.

General Remarks.

To the Chairman and Members of the Newbiggin-by-Sea Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As this may be my last Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health, I would like to summarise the work it has been my privilege to conduct as your Medical Officer of Health during the last few years and to point out some of the lessons gained from it.

The Fight against Tuberculosis.

The principles to remember in tackling this problem of the elimination of Tuberculosis are roughly five:—

(1) Young children must be segregated from contact with infected cases of open tuberculosis.

(2) A clean milk supply is essential.
"Until the ideal of a national clean milk supply is achieved, it seems only common sense, that all milk given to young children should be pasteurised. It is true that this method is not 100 per cent efficient in preventing the occasional occurrence of tubercle bacilli in milk and that in the process certain insignificant losses occur (vitamins and minerals). No-one, however, can believe that these drawbacks do not pale into utter insignificance in comparison with the great risks which are run by children in consuming unpasteurised milk from herds that have not been tuberculin-tested." (Dr. M. Dunlop).

(3) Good Housing is essential.
If you are to carry out Principle 1 you must have bedrooms in which to isolate infected patients (before or after sanatorium treatment).
Bradbury on the Tyne and McGonigle at Stockton have conclusively shown (and one's own experience confirms it) that Tuberculosis and overcrowding go hand-in-hand. If you are to wipe out Tubercle you must get the people well housed. That is why I am continually urging tuberculous families to be put on a special Housing List to prevent the plague spreading.

(4) Good Feeding is important.
Nutrition is the fourth key-principle in the fight against Tubercle. The people must be taught what to eat, how and when to eat it and how to cook it. I have said that overcrowding and Tubercle go hand-in-hand. It is probably equally true that undernourishment and Tubercle go hand-in-hand. There is a snag here, by the way, in our housing schemes. We must, if possible, always build to let at a rent that is not so high that people are tempted, or forced, to cut down their expenditure on food in order to pay the rent.

(5) Good general habits are to be inculcated.
People must be taught how to live healthily, how to breathe, how to sleep, how to escape infection, how to keep clean (especially the hands) and so on. Whilst speaking of clean hands, I must put in a word here on unwrapped bread and other foods. If we all refused to buy bread, pastries, confections, fruits and other foods handled in an unwrapped condition, the general standard of food-cleanliness would go up at once. It ought to go up in this age of cellophane and similar wrappings.

In short when the nation becomes tuberculosis-conscious, we might fight Tubercle as successfully as they have done it in Russia. Look at the Soviet figures. Leningrad in 1913 the mortality from Tuberculosis was 28.6 per 10,000. Now it is down to 12.

The Fight against Diphtheria.

I am convinced that the only way to eliminate this scourge of childhood is universal immunisation. Forget about smallpox vaccination and make immunisation against Diphtheria compulsory. This has already been done in France, much to the children's benefit. In New York State, where prevention is carried out on a large scale, approximately 750,000 children were immunised between 1925 and 1930. Notified cases of diphtheria fell as a result from 4,370 to 1,613 per annum. All deaths were among the non-immunised, so that though some immunised children contracted the disease, none died.

The New York experience was also our experiences here, in a proportional way, of course.

In our 1936 Campaign we immunised about 800 children out of a possible 1,000 at the dangerous school ages. The resulting figures from my 1936 Report were:

(Campaign started in February, 1936)

Cases of Diphtheria during 1935 and up to the end of February, 1936	131
Cases of Diptheria from March, 1936 to December, 1936	8

A highly successful result.

The result can admit no doubt. The method is straightforward and leaves no sore arms or legs as a rule, very different from the old vaccination methods. The injections are painless a little prick in the arm now and a second one in three weeks' time. Immunity develops in about three months.

As so much of my work has been fighting against overcrowding and bad housing in the last few years, I cannot do better that to conclude with Simon's often quoted words:

> "I have drawn your attention to the pestilential heaping together of human beings, and suggested to you its results—overcrowding perpetuates fever and allied disorders. It creates mortality enough to mask the results of all your sanitary progress. Its moral consequences are too dreadful to be detailed.... I have to deal with the matter only as it relates to bodily health—only because of the people's physical sufferings am I entitled to speak, only because Pestilence is forever within the circle, only because death so largely comforts these poor orphans of civilisation. While I lift the curtain to show you these things, you cannot but see that side by side with pestilence there stalks a deadlier presence, blighting the moral existence of the rising population, rendering their hearts hopeless and scattering the seeds of increase for crime, turbulence and pauperism." (Major Greenwood).

Re-housing costs money, but I have always maintained that the money is well spent, if we are to avoid the conditions and degenerate types adumbrated in the above quotation.

In conclusion, I have once more to thank our Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, Mr. James Kailofer, and his Staff in the Health Office, for much help given to me in the multifarious departments of Public Health during the past year.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

WILLIAM STEPHENSON,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.
M.R.S.C., L.R.C.P.